



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES
RICHARD W. MILLER
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MIKE ZIMMER
DIRECTOR

**MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H
Lansing, MI 48910
December 9, 2014
1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Timothy James, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Vice Chairperson David Purchase, Michigan Municipal League/Michigan Townships Assn.
Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Chad Tackett, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Richard Miller, State Fire Marshal, Council Member ex-Officio

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

BFS STAFF PRESENT

Gary Crum, Region 2 Supervisor
Michael Greis, Fire Marshal Representative
Daniel Hammerberg, Region 1 Supervisor (via teleconference)
BreeAnn Hooker, Recording Secretary

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Carl Billings
Toby O'Brien
Carl Billings III
Liz Smalley, LARA, Office of Regulatory Reinvention
Philip Duczyminski, Novi Fire Department
Tony Kowalski, Macomb Community College
Ray Wlosinski, Schoolcraft Community College
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township
Ron Tennant, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Martin Erskine, Battle Creek Fire Department
Dan Oberst, Lansing Fire Department
Kevin Sehlmeier, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Charles Runion
Lisa Runion

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairperson James called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. A quorum was determined present.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Remove subtopic under new business, Bangor Community reallocation, which will be addressed under Non-IMS County Fund Allocations. Revisit Brad Dornbos under Instructor II applications from the last meeting.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Richardson and seconded by Councilperson Purchase to approve the meeting agenda as amended. **MOTION CARRIES.**

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve the regular meeting minutes on October 24, 2014 as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

4. INSTRUCTOR APPLICATIONS

Staff presented the following Instructor applications for the Council's consideration:

- (12) Certified Instructor I
- (9) Probationary Associate Instructors
- (16) Probationary Instructor I
- (2) Certified Associate Instructor

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to approve the instructor applications as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Councilperson Blomstrom requested Fire Marshal Miller to review the application that was presented at the October meeting by Brad Dornbos for Instructor II certification. On the application, the box was checked indicating that he had 7 years of instructional experience including 32 hours per year. It has since been verbally explained that the possibility of these instructional hours are actually from teaching non OFFT courses, which would make him not eligible to be Fire Instructor II certified. This task to review will be assigned by Fire Marshal Miller to an OFFT staff member.

5. Fire Marshal Representative Report

Removal of BFS-205/215 Forms

205 is the application to attend Fire Fighter I and II, the 215 is the challenge application.

Due to electronic capabilities, to promote cost savings and avoid confusion at the scene, the paper forms will be eliminated. This online form certifies that they are with a fire department or an RTC and are able to attend the testing and class.

HMEP Grant

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant has been received from Michigan State Police, there has been a reduction from \$54,000 to \$45,000 equaling \$542 per county this fiscal year. The date to encumber these funds will be January 1, 2015. HazMat and NIMS:ICS for the Fire Service are the only 2 courses that this money can be used for. All counties have received their notice.

Failure Letters

A letter has been sent out to notify the discontinuance of this form. It can be located within each individuals training record. It is up to the employee of the fire department to notify their Chief whether they pass or fail. Chairperson James expresses his discontent with this decision and encourages reconsideration to notify the Chief. Fire Marshal Miller will research this and see if a compromise can be agreed upon and revisit this at the next Council meeting.

6. State Fire Marshal's Report

Rules Process

Liz Smalley, from the Office of Regulatory Reinvention is here to assist in moving the Rules process along. The complete process is reviewed, as well as reviewing the suggested edits, along with clarification and extensive discussion regarding suggested changes.

Adoption by Reference of the various standards was spelled out, along with alternative ways of citing portions of those standards was conversed. Decision was made to move towards objectives being met as opposed to hours being required in the fire fighter portion of the rules. Clarification as to what a Certified Instructor can do needs to be outlined. Associate Instructor needs to reflect that those individuals can only teach Fire Fighter I and II. The definition of active (Probationary) Instructor needs to be outlined and consistent for Instructor I and Instructor II. Carl Billings, Detroit Fire Department requests the definition of a Company Officer. Time is requested to come up with the appropriate definition of a Company Officer for purposes of the rules. A list needs to be maintained for the courses that have third party certification requirements. Policy 2-15, does not establish a date for an appropriate report on the use of approved county funds. The date of requested information from the Regional Training Centers for the period of October 1st-September 30th shall be submitted by December 1st, for purposes of the annual report. The question is raised and will be reviewed as to whether a fire fighter student is allowed to challenge the exam. Liz will also work on cleaning up the portion involving facial hair regarding instructors, not Bureau personnel.

Another draft will be worked out with staff and will be reviewed again with Council.

VFIS-Verification on single source vendor

Single sole source as a vendor for driver training, VFIS met the requirements and everything that was needed. Council adopted this in 1997. From a risk management point of view, Chairperson James feels comfortable with VFIS. If another company comes forward, their program may be reviewed.

Detroit Fire Department Regional Training Center Complaint

A complaint was received in regards to harassment, hazing, intimidation, bullying and racism and all documents produced were reviewed and investigated by Gary Crum. It was determined that this complaint would not be further reviewed by the Bureau of Fire Services, due to no policies being violated. The complaint has been forwarded to the Detroit Fire Commissioner for his investigation and response to this matter. Carl Billings III asks for clarification as to what procedures took place in the investigation and who was addressed during this process. Mr. Billings III also is requesting an appeal process. Chief Johnson was contacted by Gary Crum and the initial complaint was addressed, point by point. An appeal process will be identified and supplied to Mr. Billings III.

Encumbrance of Fireworks Safety Training Fees

January 1, 2015 is the date for encumbrance and a reminder letter will be going out soon. Almost \$300,000 has been encumbered thus far. The Hazmat encumbrance is close to \$4,000. A list by county of encumbered funds is requested.

Certificate Update

The Bureau will no longer be sending certificates, they will all be self-print from the IMS system. Chairperson James asks that until this new system is in place, please put this off. Rich will readdress at the next meeting.

Status on FFTC term expiration and reappointments

There is nothing new on this topic, besides the Governor's office is currently in the process. Council members are asked to continue attending until told otherwise.

7. Committee REPORT – Blomstrom

Councilperson Blomstrom went over previous meetings main points.

8. OLD BUSINESS

MFFTC Annual Report

Bureau Staff are at a point to assist in gathering data for the annual report. All figures should be available upon Council's request.

Delegation training will be February 25th at LCC from 8-5.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None

10. Non-IMS County Training Fund Applications

15.1 Montcalm Co. Ice Water Rescue

15.2 Leelanau Co. Ag Machine rescue

15.3 Leelanau Co. Reading Smoke and Tactics

15.4 Bangor Community Fire Department Building Construction and Fire Attack

15.5 Beverly Hills DPS

15.6 Macomb Community College Fire Apparatus Operator

Review and discussions of these applications resulted in the following. Courses that were approved last fiscal year under the grant application process, are still approved this fiscal year. 15.2-Ag Machine Rescue, 15.3-Reading Smoke and Tactics, and 15.6-Fire Apparatus Operator are those previously approved.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to table Application 15.5-Building Construction Attack with a request to provide more documentation. **MOTION CARRIES.**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Purchase to approve the 15.4-Building Construction and Fire Attack class. **MOTION CARRIES.**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Richardson to approve 15.1-Montcalm County Ice Water Rescue request. **MOTION CARRIES.** Councilperson Blomstrom abstained due to being the County Training Chair who submitted this request.

11. Public Comment

Toby O'Brien speaks directly in regards to Carl Billings III. He takes responsibility and discusses his demotion from the Detroit Fire Academy upon notifying the Emergency Operations Center of discrimination and violations of ADA laws. Subsequently, a number of students from the same academy that Mr. Billings III attended, have come forward and expressed their fear of coming forward because of retaliation, especially during the academy because they are not yet members of the Union, they are at will employees and until they graduate they can be dismissed with no recourse. In terms of those men coming forward, that puts a tremendous amount burden on them and empowers those in charge at the Detroit Fire Academy. As soon as the EOC investigation is complete, it will be made available.

Charles Runion, (refused to give his name at the meeting, but signed in upon entry into the building) expresses his discontent and fears retaliation and does not feel that anyone will protect him after 20 years with Detroit Fire Department. He states that Mr. Billings III is telling the truth, he expresses his confusion in the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Fire Services that nothing was found.

Carl Billings, provides correspondence between himself and Gary Crum. His complaint is that there are currently 10-11 Division Officers teaching Company Officer and they were never actual Company Officers. In his opinion, based on the policy that Council put forth and voted on, it's a breach of that policy. He is requesting that those Instructors be decertified. He feels that the investigation was one sided.

12. Council Comment

Fire Marshal Miller expresses his appreciation to the Council.

Councilperson Purchase expresses his thanks to the Curriculum Committee and to Bureau staff.

Chairperson James requests State Fire Marshal Miller to look into the Company Officer complaint made by Carl Billings. He also expresses his appreciation to the Council, the Bureau and the tremendous work and accomplishments that have taken place in Fiscal Year 14.

Daniel Hammerberg points out corrections to the 2015 Meeting Schedule. Chairperson James requests that the Meeting Schedule come forth at the next meeting and be placed on the agenda.

13. Adjournment

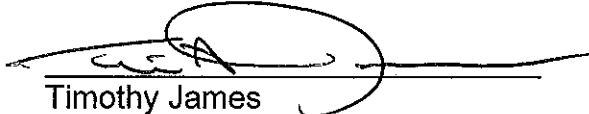
A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIES.** The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

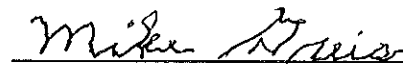
NEXT MEETING


February 10, 2014 @ 1:30 p.m.

Location:
3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H, Lansing, MI 48910

APPROVED:


Timothy James
Chairperson


Fire Fighter Training Division Representative


Councilperson